

February 13, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Lesser and Representative Gilchrist, Ranking Members Senator Seminara and Representative Case, and Distinguished Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Jane Zande and I live in West Hartford. I am a member of Congregation Beth Israel, which is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

I am writing in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits to those Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.

I want all of us who live in Connecticut to have access to good health care. The status of our citizenship should not matter. We are all neighbors, working together, and we all become ill at some point in our lives. Quality health care saves taxpayers dollars, because it reduces expensive emergency room care, and it would be offset significantly by savings in current medical expenditures. It ensures a healthy workforce and provides a higher quality of life.

My grandparents came to Connecticut from Italy in the early 20th century. They endured low-wage jobs that no one else wanted, and they struggled to keep their family healthy, just as immigrants do today. These family stories are familiar for many of us because the immigrant story is an enduring American story. Surely we can do better than we did 100 years ago.

I believe that health care is a human right, and we have a sacred responsibility to provide it.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Jane Zande
West Hartford